

HOUSE No. 8

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL
ONE ASHBURTON PLACE
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02108

The Honorable Steven T. James
Clerk of the House of Representatives
State House, Room 145
Boston, Massachusetts 02133
November 5, 2008

Dear Mr. James:

In compliance with Section 33 of Chapter 30 of the Massachusetts General Laws enclosed herewith are seven legislative proposals of the Inspector General for the 2009 session of the General Court.

1. The first proposal comprises a thoughtful and practical approach to streamline and fine tune Chapter 30B. The proposal contains a cost-savings alternative to advertising in newspapers, a definition of sound business practices and authority to purchase from the Government Services Administration supply schedule. Certain other technical clarifications are also included.
2. The second proposal authorizes the Office of the Inspector General to make staff and other assistance available to the State Ethics Commission. Currently the Ethics Commission statute, M.G.L. c. 268B, §2(m), allows the State Police, the Auditor, the Attorney General, and the Office of Campaign and Political Finance to assist the Ethics Commission if requested. This change will allow for greater collaboration between this Office and the Ethics Commission.
3. The third proposal prohibits a person from serving as a member of a retirement board while receiving compensation or other remuneration from any retirement board.
4. The fourth proposal amends the false statements in public procurement statute, M.G.L. c. 266, §67A, to require that when a violation of criminal law occurs relating to procurement of supplies, services or construction, a vendor must notify the awarding authority within 30 days of its discovery of such occurrence. Also, a vendor would have to notify the awarding authority within 30 days if it discovers it received an overpayment.
5. The fifth proposal would allow officers and employees of the Inspector General's Office to run for the position of representative town meeting member.
6. The sixth proposal would establish a trust fund for the Inspector General's Office to allow the Office to accept reimbursement for investigative costs when funds are recovered as part

of a civil or criminal proceeding. There have been occasions when the Office could have recouped funds for investigations, but has not had a mechanism to do so.

7. The seventh proposal would amend the Public Construction statute, M.G.L. c. 149, §44A(2), by allowing a public agency to use sound business practices for public construction contracts under \$5,000.

Sincerely,

GREGORY W. SULLIVAN,
Inspector General.